

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 FCC-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01 AID-05 XMB-02

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R 081534Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2263

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 7303

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETEL, XMB, LI

SUBJECT: BROADCASTING MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION

REF: MONROVIA 7302

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED COMML CABLE FROM EDWARD V. ROBERTS, V. P. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND PROJECTS FINANCING, BANKAMERICA, LONDON INQUIRING ON GOL PLANS TO MODERNIZE AND EXPAND GOVERNMENT-OWNED BROADCASTING STATIONS. COMMATT DISCUSSED INQUIRY WITH CHAUNCY COOPER, MANAGING DIRECTOR LIBERIA BROADCASTING CORP. WHO INDICATED SUCH PROJECT HAD BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVAL AND INDICATED SEVERAL EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS HAD BEEN CONTACTED. COOPER EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT AMERICAN COMPANIES WERE AWARE OF PROJECT, BUT DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY US FIRMS HAD NOT BEEN CONTACTED. HE INDICATED INTEREST IN HAVING US FIRMS MAKE PROPOSALS AND PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH COPY OF PROPOSAL HE HAD PRESENTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

2. COOPER INDICATED THAT LBC INTERESTED IN PACKAGE PROPOSAL FROM FOREIGN FIRMS, TO INCLUDE FINANCING, DESIGN AND POSSIBLY CONSTRUCTION. COOPER INDICATED GOL PLANNING ON PROJECT COSTING APPROX. DOLS. 3.5 MILLION. HE STATED GOL WAS "SERIOUS" ABOUT PROJECT, BUT WAS NONCOMMITTAL AND APPEARED SOMEWHAT EVASIVE TO QUESTIONS ON HOW MUCH UP-FRONT FINANCING GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE.

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COMMENT: LBC BROADCASTING FACILITIES KNOWN TO BE IN MISERABLE

SHAPE AND IN PAST REVENUE SITUATION HAS BEEN WEAK WITH GOL
SHOWING LITTLE INTEREST IN PROVIDING COMPANY WITH FINANCIAL INPUT
REQUIRED TO MODERNIZE OR EVEN ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN FACILITIES.

3. BANKAMERICA INQUIRY REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSESSMENT THIS PROJECT
AND GOL ECONOMIC SITUATION GENERALLY. THIS ASSESSMENT WILL BE
FORTHCOMING SEPTTEL AFTER EMBOFF HAS OPPORTUNITY CONTACT OTHER GOL
SOURCES OUTSIDE LBC. INQUIRY ALSO INDICATED UNDERSTANDING THIS
PROJECT HAS PARTIAL USAID FINANCING. THIS NOT RPT NOT CORRECT,
AND BANKAMERICA MAY BE CONFUSING THIS WITH GOL TELECOM PROJECT
WHICH ENTIRELY SEPARATE.

4. DETAILS OF PROJECT AS DESCRIBED IN PLANNING DOCUMENT PROVIDED
BY COOPER HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED THROUGH TOP (REFTEL, INFO LONDON)
FOR DISSEMINATION TO POSSIBLY INTERESTED US FIRMS.

5. FOR LONDON: PLEASE CONTACT ROBERTS OF BANKAMERICA (25
CANNON ST., LONDON) AND INFORM HIM CONTENTS THIS MESSAGE. ALSO,
SUGGEST YOU GIVE HIM COPY OF REFTEL.

6. FOR WASHINGTON: ROBERTS INDICATED HE DISCUSSED PROJECT WITH
EXIM'S GUADAGNOLI AND ASKED WE INFO HIM ON REPLY. PLEASE
PASS ON THIS INFO AND REFTEL.
HORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, BROADCASTING, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MONROV07303
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760381-0588
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761068/aaaacgwc.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MONROVIA 7302
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BROADCASTING MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION
TAGS: BEXP, ETEL, LI, US, UK, XMB, (COOPER, CHAUNCY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006